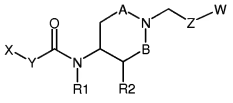
In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supercedes all previous lists of claims.

Please cancel claims 26, 28, and 29 without prejudice to its presentation in another application, amend claims 1, 3-12, 16-25, 27, and 30-35, and add new claims 36-39 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I



(I)

wherein X represents phenyl, ~~naphtyl,~~ naphthyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group, phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl, wherein the aromatic substituents (i.e. phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro or cyano, or

X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinylmethyl group, optionally independently substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, halo, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2, SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH, wherein each carbon in Y is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups and/or 1 or 2 fluoro,

R^1 represents H or a C_{1-4}alkyl group,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or

F,

Z represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, or W is optionally substituted with a trifluoromethylsulfonyl or a 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as tautomers, optical isomers and racemates thereof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

with the proviso that 2-(4-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-{1-[4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)benzyl]piperidin-4-yl}acetamide is excluded.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, in which X represents a phenyl or pyridyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinylmethyl group, optionally substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (both in which the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl wherein each Z

is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein X represents naphthyl or a heteroaryl ring selected from quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl, or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, or a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein X represents a phenyl or pyridyl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen and is further substituted by a phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl group, wherein the substituents (*i.e.* phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be further substituted by one or more fluoro, chloro or cyano

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinomethyl group, optionally substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is thienyl, furyl or pyrrolyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or X represents a diphenylmethyl group, optionally substituted at the phenyl group(s) by one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is 2,5-thienyl (where position 2 is linked to group W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro,

trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or X represents a diphenylmethyl group, optionally substituted at the phenyl group(s) by one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is 2,5-furyl (where position 2 is linked to group W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or X represents a diphenylmethyl group, optionally substituted (at the phenyl group(s)) by one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z is 1,3-1*H* pyrrolyl (in which the heteroatom is connected to W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl,

oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl, or with one trifluoromethylsulfonyl or one 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which Z is pyrrolyl.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which Z is 1,3-1*H* pyrrolyl (in which the heteroatom is connected to W).

11. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which W is phenyl or 2-pyridyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethylsulfonyl.

12. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which Y is OCH_2.

13. (original) One or more of the following compounds:

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-[(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl}acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[1-(2-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-(4-pyridin-2-ylbenzyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-furyl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-{1-[3-(1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)benzyl]piperidin-4-yl}acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-(3-pyridin-2-ylbenzyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-furyl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-N-[1-({5-[1-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-thienyl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

N-(1-{[1-(4-bromophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)-2-(3-chlorophenoxy)acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-methyl-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(pyridin-3-yloxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]-N-[1-({1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-cyanophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-fluorophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-

yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-cyanophenoxy)-N-[1-({5-[1-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-thienyl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(2-chlorophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-N-[1-({5-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-2-furyl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-N-(1-{[1-(4-cyanophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-cyanophenoxy)-N-(1-{[5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-furyl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

2-(3-cyanophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-N-(1-{[1-(5-chloropyrimidin-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

3-(3-chlorophenyl)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide

(2E)-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acrylamide

2-(3,5-difluorophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(2,6-diisopropylphenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-isopropylphenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(2-cyanophenoxy)-N-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(isoquinolin-5-yloxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-

yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3,4-difluorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-yl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(biphenyl-3-yloxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide,

2-(4-chlorophenoxy)-2-methyl-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide,

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)azetidin-3-yl]acetamide

2-(diphenylmethoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[(3*S*,4*S*)-3-fluoro-1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide,

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-[(3*R*,4*R*)-3-fluoro-1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

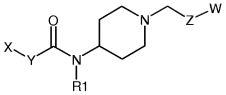
2-(3,4-difluorophenoxy)-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl]acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-{1-[(1-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]phenyl}-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl}acetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-(1-{[1-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]methyl}piperidin-4-yl)acetamide

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

14. (original) A compound of formula Ia



(Ia)

wherein X represents a 5-10 membered aryl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group, phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl, wherein the aromatic substituents (i.e. phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro or cyano,

Y is OCH_2, SCH_2 (both in which the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH, wherein each carbon in Y is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups and/or 1 or 2 fluoro,

R^1 represents H or a C_{1-4}alkyl group,

Z represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro,

as well as tautomers, optical isomers and racemates thereof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

with the proviso that 2-(4-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-{1-[4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)benzyl]piperidin-4-yl}acetamide is excluded.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14, in which X represents a phenyl or pyridyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (both in which the heteroatom is connected to X) CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrrolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein X represents naphthyl or a heteroaryl ring selected from quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl, or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (both in which the heteroatom is connected to X) CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrrolyl

wherein each Z is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

17. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, wherein X represents phenyl or pyridyl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen and is further substituted by a phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl group, wherein the substituents (*i.e.* phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be further substituted by on or more fluoro, chloro or cyano,

Y is OCH_2 or SCH_2 (both in which the heteroatom is connected to X) CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH,

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

Z is phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrrolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by cyano, fluoro, chloro or trifluoromethyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, thereof.

18. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

Z is thienyl, furyl or pyrrolyl,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl,

pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

19. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

Z is 2,5-thienyl (where position 2 is linked to group W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

Z is 2,5-furyl (where position 2 is linked to group W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

21. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which X represents a phenyl group substituted with one or more cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2 (in which the heteroatom is connected to X),

R^1 is hydrogen,

Z is 1,3-1*H* pyrrolyl (in which the heteroatom is connected to W),

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

22. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which Z is pyrrolyl.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which Z is 1,3-1*H* pyrrolyl (in which the heteroatom is connected to W).

24. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which W is phenyl or 2-pyridyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl.

25. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 14, in which Y is OCH_2.

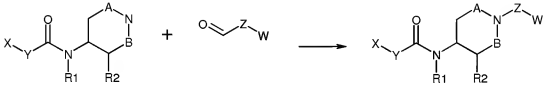
26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of ~~formula I or formula Ia, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

28-29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula I or formula Ia comprising

reacting a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III



II III I

~~in which X, Y, Z, W, A, B, R^1 and R^2 are as previously defined,~~

wherein X represents phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group, phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl, wherein the aromatic substituents (i.e. phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro or cyano, or

X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinylmethyl group, optionally independently substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, halo, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2, SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH, wherein each carbon in Y is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups and/or 1 or 2 fluoro,

R^1 represents H or a C_{1-4}alkyl group,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

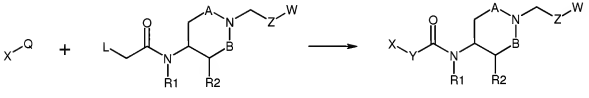
R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, and

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, or W is optionally substituted with a trifluoromethylsulfonyl or a 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W).

31. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula I or formula Ia comprising

reacting a compound of formula IV with a compound of formula V



V IV I

~~in which X, Q, L, Y, Z, W, A, B, R^1 and R^3 are as previously defined,~~

wherein X represents phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group, phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl, wherein the aromatic substituents

(i.e. phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro or cyano, or

X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinylmethyl group, optionally independently substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, halo, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2, SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH, wherein each carbon in Y is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups and/or 1 or 2 fluoro,

R^1 represents H or a C_{1-4}alkyl group,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro,

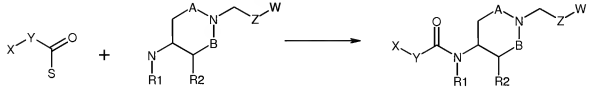
W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, or W is optionally substituted with a trifluoromethylsulfonyl or a 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W),

Q represents a hydroxyl or a mercapto group, and

L represents a leaving group.

32. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula I or formula Ia comprising

reacting a compound of formula VI with a compound of formula VII



VII VI I

~~in which X, Y, S, Z, W, A, B, R^1 and R^2 are as previously defined,~~

wherein X represents phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzo[*b*]thienyl or benzimidazolyl,

wherein each X is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a group $CONR^aR^b$ in which R^a and R^b independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group, phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl, wherein the aromatic substituents (i.e. phenyl, phenoxy, 2-pyridyl or 3-pyridyl) may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro or cyano, or

X represents a diphenylmethyl or a dipyridinylmethyl group, optionally independently substituted at the aryl group(s) by one or more cyano, halo, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl,

Y is OCH_2, SCH_2 (wherein the heteroatom is connected to X), CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH, wherein each carbon in Y is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups and/or 1 or 2 fluoro,

R^1 represents H or a C_{1-4}alkyl group,

A represents $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and B represents $(CH_2)_m$, wherein m is 0 or 1,

R^2 represents H or, when A and B are identical and represents CH_2, R_2 represents H or F,

Z represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl,

pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each Z is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro,

W represents phenyl or a heterocyclic group selected from thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl wherein each W is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: cyano, halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, or W is optionally substituted with a trifluoromethylsulfonyl or a 2,2-difluoro-1,3-dioxolane ring (fused with two adjacent aromatic carbon atoms in W), and

S represents a hydroxy group or a chlorine atom.

33. (currently amended) ~~The~~ One or more of the following compounds ~~of formulae II, III, IV and VI, including salts thereof, which are useful as synthesis intermediates~~:

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

2-(3-cyanophenoxy)-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

2-(3-fluorophenoxy)-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

2-(2-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

N-piperidin-4-yl-2-(pyridin-3-yloxy)acetamide

N-piperidin-4-yl-2-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]acetamide

2-phenoxy-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

2-(3-chlorophenoxy)-*N*-methyl-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

2-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-*N*-piperidin-4-ylacetamide

1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbaldehyde

1-(5-chloropyrimidin-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbaldehyde

4-(3-formyl-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)benzonitrile

2-chloro-*N*-[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-amine dihydrochloride

tert-butyl[1-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl}methyl)piperidin-4-yl]carbamate

1-(6-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-3-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbaldehyde

2-(3,4-difluorophenoxy)-*N*-pyrrolidin-3-ylacetamide

1-(2,2-difluoro-benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbaldehyde, and

1-(4-Trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbaldehyde.

34. (currently amended) A method of treating obesity, a psychiatric ~~disorders~~ disorder, anxiety, an anxio-depressive ~~disorders~~ disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, ADHD, a cognitive ~~disorders~~ disorder, a memory ~~disorders~~ disorder, schizophrenia, epilepsy, ~~and related conditions, and~~ a neurological ~~disorders~~ disorder, ~~and~~ or a pain related disorder ~~disorders~~, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 25~~ according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

35. (currently amended) A method of treating obesity, type II diabetes, metabolic syndrome ~~and~~ or prevention of type II diabetes comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 25~~ according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

36. (new) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

37. (new) A process according to claim 31 wherein the leaving group is a halo or methanesulfonyloxy.

38. (new) A method of treating obesity, a psychiatric disorder, anxiety, an anxio-depressive disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, ADHD, a cognitive disorder, a memory disorder, schizophrenia, epilepsy, a neurological disorder, or a pain related disorder, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to claim 14 to a patient in need thereof.

39. (new) A method of treating obesity, type II diabetes, metabolic syndrome or prevention of type II diabetes comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to claim 14 to a patient in need thereof.